

AC. 4421 (3) WELWYN GARDEN CITY

WELWYN GARDEN CITY
URBAN DISTRICT



FIFTH REPORT

FROM

January 1st to December 31st
1931

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members
of the Welwyn Garden City
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1931.

The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 1206 dated 14th July, 1931.

I am indebted to Captain W. E. James, your Surveyor, for particulars regarding the water supply and main drainage system.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. B. H. Deamer, Clerk to the Council, for the help he has given me, also to Mr. F. Allison, your Sanitary Inspector, whose loyal co-operation has been of the greatest assistance.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

H. W. GRATTAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE ROAD,
WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

May, 1932.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,460
Population (mid-year, 1931)	8,601
Population (mid-year, 1931), as estimated by Welwyn Garden City Ltd.	8,622
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	2,500 approx.
Rateable value, 31st December, 1931	£74,866
Net estimated product of a penny rate	£256

2—EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population.

The estimated mid-yearly figure of 8,601 has been supplied by the Registrar General for the purpose of calculating the birth and death rate.

	Total	Males.	Females
Live } Legitimate	184	86	98
Births } Illegitimate	4	2	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 21.85			

Stillbirths	3	1	2
Deaths	44	20	24

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 5.11

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—

From Sepsis	0
From other causes	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

1931.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England & Wales	15.8	12.3	66.
Welwyn Garden City	21.8	5.1	5.

The following table gives the causes of death :—

	Males	Females
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	2	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	0
Other Tuberculous disease	0	1
Cancer, Malignant disease	2	4
Diabetes	0	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	0	4
Heart Disease.....	4	3
Other circulatory diseases	0	2
Bronchitis	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1
Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis and typhlitis	0	0
Cirrhosis of liver	0	0
Other diseases of liver etc.	0	1
Other digestive diseases	0	3
Acute and chronic nephritis	0	1
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes	—	1
Congenital debility and malformation, pre- mature birth	1	0
Suicide	1	0
Other deaths from violence	0	0
Other defined diseases	4	1
All causes	20	24

3.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	9	7	0
Scarlet Fever	15	13	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods					New Cases.				Deaths.			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals					4	5	2	1	1	—	—	1

The total number of notifications of cases of tuberculosis was 24 of which 12 had been previously notified.

No deaths occurred from tuberculosis in cases which had not been previously notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was found necessary during 1931.
Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

No action was found necessary in 1931.

4.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

With regard to the seven cases of Diphtheria (proved bacteriologically) five occurred among children attending elementary schools. Four from Peartree School from three different classes. This number includes a “carrier.” The “carrier,” who was detected in June, attended Class 12 Peartree School and although no cases of diphtheria in the district are attributed to infection from this source, the facts suggest that a visitor to the patient’s home contracted diphtheria from the “carrier.”

Four cases occurred in July in three different families. One was an infant below school age and one an adult, whose home was in the Garden City, but was employed and lived out of the district. This patient returned home ill and was duly notified. A sister who attended Class 10 Peartree School developed the disease some days later. The last case in July also attended the same Class 10.

The remaining two cases were notified in September, both patients were of school age, one attended Handside Junior School and the other Peartree School.

Of the fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever, the maximum incidence in any one month was four in September. Thirteen of the cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

The system adopted in Elementary Schools for ascertaining the names and addresses of scholars who are absent on account of suspected infectious illness continues to work well in practice.

Protection against Diphtheria.

The desirability of providing facilities for the voluntary immunisation against Diphtheria has been brought to the notice of the Council.

Closure of Schools.

No Schools were closed on account of illness during the year.

5.—SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS & OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT

The Health Council and the Welwyn Garden City Health Association.

During the past year the work of the Health Association has been reorganised and is now divided between two Committees who, administer :— (1) The Welwyn Garden City Cottage Hospital and (2) The Maternity, Child Welfare and District Nursing services.

Two hundred and forty-three patients were admitted to the Cottage Hospital during the year ending March, 1932 and 588 out-patients treated.

The responsibilities of the second Committee include the organisation of the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and the scheme for providing "Home Helps," which is meeting a need in many homes. It is only possible at present to employ one permanent Home Help, but six or seven temporary helpers have been working simultaneously under the direction of this Committee.

The interest in health matters shewn by the residents in Welwyn Garden City is illustrated by the fact that there are 1,943 subscribers to the Health Association. This includes 1,273 employees who subscribe to the Association and Hospital through the Central Civic Fund Industrial Scheme. Full particulars of the minimum subscription and benefits obtainable will be supplied by the Honorary Secretaries, 180 Handside Lane and 1 Mannicotts on application.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The time when these Institutions are open is given below :—

Clinic.		Place.	Time.	Date.
Child Welfare	.....	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Thursday
„	„	Peartree Club- House	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Tuesday
Ante-Natal	.....	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	First Friday in every month
„	„	Peartree Club- House	2 to 4 p.m.	Third Friday in every month
Dental	.....	Lawrence Hall	9.30 to 11.30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.	Every Tuesday

Tuberculosis.

The nearest available clinics are (1) at Hatfield at the residence of Mrs. Cowles, Church Street, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends on the second and fourth Mondays at 11.30 a.m. ; and (2) at the County Medical Office, Hertford, on Mondays at 2 p.m.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment is provided free of cost at a London Hospital under arrangements made by the County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the local Authority or by the County Council.

	Hospital.		Situation.	Authority.
(1)	Tuberculosis	.....	County Sanatorium, Ware Park.	County Council.
(2)	Maternity	.....	None	
(3)	Children	.....	None	
(4)	Isolation	.....	(a) Hitchin Road, Letchworth.	Hitchin & Letchworth Joint Hospital Board.
			(b) Gallows Hill, Hertford.	Hertford and Ware Joint Hospital Board.
(5)	Smallpox	.....	Hitchin Road, Langley, Nr. Hitchin.	Hitchin & Letchworth Joint Hospital Board.
(6)	Mental	.....	Hill End, nr. St. Albans.	County Council.
(7)	Infirmery	.....	Public Assistance Institution, Hatfield.	Public Assistance Committee, County Council.

Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

None except that provided by the Public Assistance Committee at the Institution, Hatfield.

Ambulance facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases. Motor Ambulances stationed at the
(1) Letchworth and (2) Hertford and Ware Isolation Hospitals.
- (b) For non-infectious cases and accidents. St. John Motor Ambulance stationed at Messrs. Jenner Parsons Garage, Bridge Road, Welwyn Garden City.

An Ambulance Division and a Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade have been formed; the former Division is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Ambulance and for supplying the personnel required in connection therewith, whilst the latter Division is responsible for supplying any female Nursing personnel which may be required for the Ambulance. The address of the Hon. Secretary is 70 Knella Road.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements have been made whereby members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain bacteriological reports (free of charge) in cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, meningitis and ringworm. In the case of tuberculosis, outfits for collecting specimens for examination can be obtained on application from the County Medical Office, Hertford, or from the Tuberculosis Officers at one of the dispensaries. These examinations are carried out at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

Provision of Anti-toxin.

Members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin free of charge. The anti-toxin is kept at the Cottage Hospital, Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City. 'Phone 269.

A supply of sterile throat swabs and outfits for Widal's Tests are also available at this Institution.

7.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

List of Adoptive Acts and Bye-law in force in the Urban District and dates from which they become operative.

Act or Bye-law	Operative from :—
1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. (Section 23 and 33)	13th May 1915.
2. (Section 19)	30th April, 1925.
3. Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.	1st April, 1927.
4. Bath and Washhouses Acts, 1846—1899.	17th June, 1930.
5. Public Health Act, 1925 (except sections 21 and 22 of part II, section 44 of part III and the whole of part V).	1st August, 1930.
6. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.	1st March, 1931.
7. Bye-law, Section 2, Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926.	23rd March, 1931.

Milk Supply.

There is one wholesale trader, 10 retail purveyors and two cow-keepers and milk producers on the register.

A considerable amount of milk is produced outside the district on registered premises under the supervision of six different Local Authorities.

About three-fifths of the milk supply to the Garden City is distributed by Welwyn Stores Ltd., through their Central Milk Depot at Lower Handside Farm. This depot has been organised under the direction of the Research Professor in Dairy Bacteriology, University College, Reading. The buildings at this farm have been reconstructed and the drainage overhauled. The various buildings have been fitted with modern equipment for sterilising dairy utensils, etc., and for bottling milk on an extensive scale.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied to the town by Welwyn Garden City Ltd., and is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation.

The pumping station is situated in the valley of the Mimram (a tributary of the Lea), near the northern boundary of the Urban District, where the water is raised to reservoirs on the Sherrards Wood ridge in the north western quarter of the district.

During the year, 188 yards of water mains were laid in Holwell Road and 124 yards in Barleycroft Green.

The supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

A sample was taken from a tap on the rising main at the Pumping Station, for analysis, on the 13th August, 1931 and the following report was received :—

Number of organisms per cubic centimetre
of water growing upon nutrient gelatine at
20 deg. C. in three days

.....

Number of organisms per cubic centimetre of water growing upon agar at 37 deg. C. in one day	.....	13
Smallest quantity of water giving acid and gas in bile-salt glucose broth	.....	100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving gas in bile-salt lactose broth	.....	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	.....	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	.....	Absent in 100 c.c.

This water is of a high standard of bacterial purity. It is a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east and discharges into sewer disposal works in the north-east corner of the District. The whole drainage system is new and in a satisfactory condition.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. Both sludge and effluent are discharged on the surface of adjoining farm lands without nuisance, the Lea Conservancy Regulations prohibiting the discharge of any new effluent into the rivers.

The surface drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal of the town are carried out by Welwyn Garden City Ltd. The details of the scheme have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

During 1931, 341 yards of new tributary sewers have been laid and 1,047 yards of surface water drains.

Scavenging.

House refuse is collected under contract with the Council once a week and is disposed of by tipping in an old gravel pit near the southern boundary of the district under a very stringent specification with satisfactory results at present. The collection is regular, bins are disinfected each week and there is no nuisance from the refuse tip. The weekly collection of house refuse has been extended in outlying areas so that the whole Urban District is now included.

There are a few cesspools connected with the old cottages near the boundaries of the district. These are periodically pumped out by Welwyn Garden City Ltd. (the owners of the properties), and the contents disposed of by spreading on farm lands.

There are in the old dwellings referred to above, a number of pail closets which are emptied by the tenants. As the drainage system of the town extends, these are being converted to the water-carriage system.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

One Medical Officer of Health (part time only).

One Sanitary Inspector, who is also Housing Manager for the Council.

One Clerical Assistant.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	19	3	Nil.
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	3	—	Nil.
WORKPLACES (other than Out- workers' premises)	3	—	Nil.
Total	25	3	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which pro- secutions were in- stituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Not separate for sexes				
Total	3	3	Nil.	Nil.

9.—HOUSING (a) *Statistics.*

The following table shows the number of houses built by the Council.

Scheme No.	Situation	Acres	No. of houses	Type	No.	In-clusive Rent	Act built under	Year completed	Rate-able value 1931 £
1	Youngs Rise Elm Gardens Applecroft Road	4.6	50	A3 B3 B4	20 20 10	13/3 15/6 17/4	1919	1922	16 to 20
2	Guessens Road Lanefield Walk	7.5	93	A2 A3 B3	28 31 34	10/9 11/9 12/9	1923	1924	10 to 14
3	Longcroft Lane Birdcroft Road	8.9	100	A2 A3 B3	2 54 44	11/3 12/3 13/3	1923	1925	12 to 14
4	Ludwick Way Knella Road District	20.4	*200	A2 A3 B3 B4	31 43 103 23	13/6 15/- 17/8 19/3	1923	1927	10 to 19
5	Knella Road Barnard Green Longmore Gardens	8.7	*100	A3 B3	76 24	11/8 11/11 14/11	1924	1930	12 13 16
6	Salisbury Road Heronswood Road District	18.15	*200	A2 A3 B3	24 130 46	11/6 11/9 15/-	1924	1931	11 to 16
	Total	68.16	743		743				

Type A2.	Non-parlour and two bedrooms	85
Type A3.	Non-parlour and three bedrooms	354
Type B3.	Parlour and three bedrooms	271
Type B4.	Parlour and four bedrooms	33
		<hr/> 743

The inclusive rent includes rates and water charges. *450 of these houses are provided with sheds. Rates for 1931—12/- in the £.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(i)	By the Local Authority	14
(ii)	By Welwyn P.U.S., Ltd.	78
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	15
	Total	<hr/> 107

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.</i>	
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	507
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	724
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	*4
	<i>*These four cottages were closed by voluntary action of the owners in consequence of informal action of the Local Authority's Officers. One has been demolished and the other three will not be re-let but demolished voluntarily by the owners in due time.</i>	
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	8
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :-</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	0
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year : —</i>	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	0
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	0
	B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	16
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Order were made	.....	*1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	*1

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.....	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.....	0

E.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.....	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	.....	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	.....	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	.....	*3

F.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.....	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.	.....	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	0

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR
1931.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Fifth Annual Report of the Sanitary Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1931.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER. Welwyn Garden City has an abundant supply of excellent water of high bacterial purity, derived from deep wells in the chalk, and distributed by the Water Company. A few of the smaller houses on the outskirts of the district obtain their water from shallow wells.
A sample submitted to the analyst for test from one of these wells was found to be unsatisfactory. The well is now disused, the house having been demolished.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. A small portion of the River Mimram, about three-quarters of a mile in length, runs through the northern portion of the district. No complaint has been received, nor has any evidence been forthcoming that it is being polluted.
3. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. The drainage of the district is mainly separate in character, the whole of the soil water sewage being dealt with by filtration at the Black Fan Sewage Works.
4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, with the exception of a few small houses (rural in character), on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is generally in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.
5. SCAVENGING, &c. Premises have galvanised iron dustbins with covers for the deposit of refuse. All house refuse is collected weekly by Contractor's horse-drawn vehicles, and tipped on dumps near the 20th Mile Bridge and at Digswell. These refuse dumps are well kept and free from nuisance.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 724. In connection with 507 premises visited, sanitary defects to the number of 358 were discovered, and the necessary action taken to have these remedied.

For this purpose 358 informal notices and 6 statutory notices were issued. Four nuisances were abated without notice.

Of the informal notices sent, 342 were references to the Housing Department, for nuisances or defects found in Council Houses.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT. The Council now call for a report from time to time on the condition of all houses on which they have advanced money. 82 such inspections were made during the year and 20 letters were sent calling for repairs and re-decorations to be done.

MOSQUITO &c. CONTROL. A number of inspections were made of stagnant water-courses, pools, and water storage tanks with a view to checking the breeding of mosquitos by spraying with a larvaecide.

Mosquitos breed in stagnant water during the spring and early

summer months, and the spraying of the surface of the water with crude paraffin oil at these times will kill the mosquito larvæ. A more efficient method is to thoroughly empty all rainwater tanks, and clean out ditches and water-courses so that the flow of water therein is unobstructed.

The public should bear in mind that the accumulation of decaying food and manure forms ideal breeding grounds for rats, flies and other insects, and all such collections should either be removed, buried, or suitably covered up frequently from April until October. If particulars of any such nuisance are sent to the Sanitary Inspector at the Council Offices they will receive immediate attention.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES. The lack of public lavatories in the district has been reported on, and the Council still have the matter under consideration. A small temporary convenience has been erected on the east side, but this is hardly adequate for the size of the Town. There should be further provision of this nature for a population such as we have and for visitors to the Garden City.

MORTUARY. The mortuary provided by the Council has been used four times during the year.

DUST BINS. References to the Surveyor's Department numbered 8. These principally consisted of complaints of nuisances from full dust bins. This work proceeds smoothly, and almost without complaint. Two references were made to the Water Engineer, Welwyn Garden City Ltd.

The Council's Surveyor, who has charge of the refuse collection and disposal work, refers complaints of defective dust bins which are brought to his notice to the Public Health Department, and 79 such complaints have been received and suitable action taken where necessary, new dust bins being provided in each case.

RATS, ETC. Inspections are regularly made by your Sanitary Inspector and Mr. J. Dubbin the Herts County Council Rats Officer, of the Refuse Dump and all Factories and Workshops with rat infestations. Advice is always given as to the best means of eradication.

The following is a summary of the inspections made, also a list of the various repairs executed or improvements carried out during the period under review.

NOTICES SERVED.

Number of intimation notices served, dealing with 385	
premises	358
Number of Statutory notices served	6
All notices were complied with and nuisances abated.	—
No prosecutions were necessary	—

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE
OWNER OR OCCUPIER.

Nuisances dealt with.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Nuisances abated without notice	.....	.....	.....	4
„ from damp houses remedied	.....	.....	.....	8
Defective house roof	.....	.....	.....	65
„ kitchen chimney	.....	.....	.....	13
Galvanised dust-bins provided or renewed	.....	.....	.....	79
Gas fumes from defective washing coppers	.....	.....	.....	20

DRAINS.

Defective drains relaid	.....	.....	.....	3
Choked W.C. basins	.....	.....	.....	1

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, &c.

Insufficient W.C. water	.....	.....	.....	37
New W.C. basins fixed	.....	.....	.....	14
Defective W.C. seats renewed	.....	.....	.....	12
„ sink traps and waste pipes	.....	.....	.....	42
W.C. soil pipe unstopped	.....	.....	.....	1
Choked sink and bath waste pipes	.....	.....	.....	4
New W.C. cisterns fixed	.....	.....	.....	1
„ Sink traps „	.....	.....	.....	11

MISCELLANEOUS.

Smoke nuisance from defective coppers and fires	.....	.....	.....	9
Rat infested premises	.....	.....	.....	5
New drain boards fixed	.....	.....	.....	25
Filthy land and ditch	.....	.....	.....	1
Pigs kept in a dirty condition	1
Pigeons —ditto—	1
Dead dog kept on premises	1

Total	358
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Summary of Inspections.

Special Inspections	41
Routine inspections	465
Re-inspections after notice	.....	.....	.....	38
Visits to works in progress	.....	.....	.....	49
Inspections of Workshops	.....	.....	.....	3
„ „ „ Factories	.....	.....	.....	14
„ „ „ Work Places	.....	.....	.....	3
„ „ „ Food Stores (including Fried Fish Saloon)	.....	.....	.....	12
„ „ „ Cowsheds	.....	.....	.....	4
„ „ „ Dairies	.....	.....	.....	6
„ „ „ Licensed Premises	.....	.....	.....	3

No. of inspections of rat infested premises	.....	6
„ „ „ „ Re milk supply	.....	8
„ „ „ „ Railway Station	.....	3
„ „ „ „ of a Theatre	.....	8
„ „ „ „ Sewage Works	.....	2
„ „ „ „ Farms	.....	5
„ „ „ „ Schools	.....	16
„ „ „ „ Refuse Dumps	.....	12
Miscellaneous calls	.....	26

No. of drains smoke tested	.....	6
„ „ houses inspected	.....	507
„ „ rooms inspected	.....	2117
„ „ houses found clean	.....	507
„ „ infected premises disinfected	.....	39

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Smoke observations made	.....	18
„ „ nuisances	.....	3

In each case the excessive smoke was reduced immediately, on taking up the matter with the owner or occupier of the premises concerned. A Bye-law is now in force, describing a smoke nuisance under the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, but no legal action has been necessary

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are no such premises in the district, nor are any such bye-laws in force.

SCHOOLS.

There are six schools, two of which are Public Elementary Schools. The water in each case is obtained from the town's public supply

No. of visits to Public Elementary Schools	16
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The overcrowding of two temporary buildings used as schools, also the dangerous structure of one has been reported on. A new Council school is in course of erection.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911 AND 1928.

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Infected Premises.

DISINFECTION.

No. of infected Houses disinfected	.....	36
„ „ times Hospital	.....	1
„ „ „ School	.....	2

LIBRARY BOOKS.

When investigating cases of infectious disease, enquiries are made to ascertain if any library books are on the premises. Any books found in infected premises are either disinfected or destroyed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.
DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS AND COWSHEDS.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Within the district there are two cowsheds, at Digswell Lodge and Woodhall Farm containing respectively thirty-four and twenty-six milch cows ; total sixty.

Of the ten purveyors registered for the sale of milk in the district, nine have premises outside the Council's area.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS, &c.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

Application for Registration during the year	.....	2
Previously registered	.....	8
		—
Total on Register	.....	10
		—

WHOLESALE TRADERS.

Previously registered	.....	1
		—
Total on Register	.....	1
		—

COWKEEPERS AND PRODUCERS.

Previously registered	.....	2
		—
Total on Register	.....	2
		—

CERTIFIED MILK.

Application to renew Supplementary Licence to sell		
Certified Milk	.....	1
Licence renewed	.....	1

GRADE A (TUBERCULIN TESTED) MILK.

Application to renew licence to bottle and sell	.....	1
Licence renewed	.....	1

GRADE A MILK.

Application to renew Supplementary Licence to sell		
Grade A Milk	.....	1
New application for Supplementary Licence	.....	1
		—
Total	.....	2
		—

Arrangements are made for milk and other samples to be submitted from time to time to the Council's Bacteriologist, and the result of

each test is reported to the Members of the Council for their information.

Two samples of milk delivered at Council Schools by retail purveyors for consumption by scholars were submitted to the Analyst for report. Copy of Analyst's report is subjoined.

	Bacteria in 1 c.c.	Bacillus Coli		
		1/100 c.c.	1/1,000 c.c.	1/10,000 c.c.
School No. 1.	130,000	present	absent	absent
School No. 2.	156,000	present	present	absent

In both cases the producer was written to regarding B. Coli being present.

Two samples of milk, delivered at Council Schools by retail purveyors for consumption by scholars were submitted to the Analyst for a Report on Animal Inoculation test for Tubercle Bacilli. Both were reported on as negative and containing no T.B.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The system of meat inspection in operation comprises irregular visits to the two stores. There are no slaughterhouses in the district. A number of meat traders' vehicles come into the district daily, and these are inspected at irregular intervals.

No. of official inspections of Food Stores	.....	10
„ „ irregularities under Meat Regulations	.....	Nil

There was no unsound food required to be dealt with during the year.

ADULTERATION, &C.

The Food and Drugs and Allied Acts, the Rats and Mice Destruction Act and the Contagious Diseases Animals Acts are administered by the County Authorities under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

Factory-and Workshop Acts.

The following is a list of Factories and Workshops on the Register at the end of the year (Sec. 131 Factory and Workshops Act, 1901) :—

FACTORIES.			
Boot Repairer	..... 1	Food Factories	..... 2
Baker & Confectioner	..... 1	Printers	..... 1
Builders	..... 3	Film Studio	..... 1
Film Maker	..... 1	Wireless Sets	..... 1
Laundry	..... 1	Heating Engineer	..... 1
Agricultural Machine Maker	..... 1	Electric Appliance Maker	..... 1
Corset Maker	..... 1	Tile Maker	..... 1

Cement Water Proofer	.....	1	Silk Fashions	.....	1
Brickworks	.....	1	Stocking & Hosiery	.....	1
Engineers ; Constructional	.....	1	Joinery Works	.....	1
„ Motor	.....	1	Sweet Maker	.....	1
„ Produce Gas	.....	1	Furniture Makers	.....	2
Foundry : Iron	.....	1	Grinding Wheel Maker	.....	1
Ink Manufacturer	.....	1			—
Sausage Maker	.....	1	Total		33
Electricity Supply	.....	1			—

WORKSHOPS.

Dressmaker	.....	1	Gas Company Repair Depot	.....	1
Decorator	.....	1	Cellulose Lacquerer	.....	1
Metal Worker	.....	1	Picture Framer	.....	1
Motor Repairer	.....	1	Upholsterer	.....	2
Sign Writer	.....	1			—
Blacksmith	.....	2	Total		13
Cycle Repairer	.....	1			—

WORKPLACES.

Restaurant and Cafe Kitchens	2	Nurseryman	.....	1
Stables	3	Egg Packing Station	.....	1
Food Stores	2			—
Water Pumping Station	1	Total		12
Liquid Soap & Oils	1			—
Poultry & Cattle Foods	1	Grand Total		58
				—

No. of Inspections made to Factories, Workshops and Work-places (including Bakery and Laundry)	.....	20
No. of Nuisances : W.C. accommodation, not clean	.....	1
„ „ „ Rat infested premises	.....	1
„ „ „ Choked combined drains	.....	1
		—
		3

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, Music Halls, etc.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR No. 120.

No. of Visits to Theatres, Cinema, etc.	.....	8
„ „ Nuisances discovered	.....	Nil

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the support given to me by the Council, in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. ALLISON,

Sanitary Inspector.

